

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Initially, Applicant would like to express appreciation to the Examiner for the detailed Official Action provided.

Claims 2-13 are currently pending, with claims 5 and 8-13 being withdrawn from consideration in a previous Official Action. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection, and allowance of all the claims pending in the present application.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

In the Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 2-4, 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. In setting forth the rejection, the Examiner asserts that the inclination angle of the side surfaces are constant and does not appear to increase (see paragraph 3 on page 2 of the Official Action).

Contrary to the Examiner's assertions, as will be discussed in further detail below, Applicants submit that Figure 4 of the present disclosure clearly shows, by way of non-limiting example, the side surfaces (*e.g., generally corresponding to the sides of 7 and 13 as shown in Figure 4B*) being at an increased angle from 7 as it extends to 13.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 2-4, 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 7-323403 (JP '403) in view of HOPPER et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,520,722).

Applicants respectfully traverses the Examiner's above-mentioned rejection.

In particular, both claims 2 and 6 generally set forth a saw blade including: left and right set teeth, which are set in a lateral direction, as viewed in a cutting direction of the cutting teeth; wherein each of the left and right set teeth is a dovetail shaped set tooth having a tooth tip which is gradually enlarged in the lateral direction in addition to being set, each of the left teeth having a left side surface at the dovetail shaped portion and each of the right teeth having a right side surface at the dovetail shaped portion, so that each inclination angle of the left side surface and the right side surface is increased as a result of both the dovetail shape and set of the tooth tip.

In setting forth the rejection, the Examiner asserts that JP '403 discloses the general structure of the presently claimed saw blade. However, the Examiner acknowledges that JP '403 does not disclose the tooth tip being gradually enlarged in a lateral direction. Nevertheless, the Examiner relies on HOPPER as purportedly supplying the acknowledged deficiencies of JP '403.

Contrary to the Examiner's continued assertions, Applicants submit that the devices of the applied art are very different structurally from the presently claimed invention.

In particular, Applicants submit that the inclination angles of the side surfaces in JP '403 and HOPPER are constant, i.e., oriented at a constant angle (see, e.g., Figure 4B of HOPPER and Figure 2 of JP '403).

In this regard, Applicants submit that, in accordance with the saw blade of the presently claimed invention, in addition to the tip of the tooth being set (i.e., inclination), the tip is also provided with a dovetail shape. Therefore, Applicants submit that, in the

present invention, each inclination angle of the left side surface and the right side surface is increased as a result of both the dovetail shape and set of the teeth.

Applicants submit that the aforementioned feature of the presently claimed invention has an advantage over the applied prior art in that the inclination angle is summed up with the inclination angles of the side surfaces (see, e.g., 7 and 13F, and 9 and 15F in the non-limiting embodiment of Figures 1 and 6) of the chips on the tooth tips (i.e., resulting from the dove tail shape of each of the chips on the tooth tips), such that the inclination angle of each of the side surfaces of the chips and on the tooth tips disposed at the left and right set teeth in the vertical direction becomes grater than the inclination angle obtained after setting the left and right set teeth (see, the paragraph beginning on line 15 of page 8 of the present Disclosure).

Thus, as discussed in the previous response, Applicants submit that it is possible to suppress an increase in abrasion upward and downward (i.e., in the vertical direction) even in the case where horizontal (i.e., lateral) abrasion occurs at outside corners of the chip on the tooth tips disposed at left and right set teeth, respectively. That is, Applicants submit that it is possible to suppress an increase in cutting resistance due to the abrasion occurring at the corners of the chips and on the tooth tips and an unstable state of the saw blade caused by an increased partial force in the lateral direction, thus prolonging the lifetime of the saw blade and solving the above-described problems experienced by the saw blade in the prior art (see, the last paragraph on page 8 of the Official Action).

Therefore, even assuming, *arguendo*, that the teachings of HOPPER and JP '403 have been properly combined, Applicants submit that the applied prior art (alone or in any properly reasoned combination) still does not disclose at least the presently claimed

each inclination angle of the left side surface and the right side surface being increased as a result of both the dovetail shape and set of the tooth tip, as generally recited in claims 2 and 6.

That is, since the applied prior art discloses the side surfaces extending at a constant angle for reasons discussed supra.

Accordingly, Applicants submits that the rejection of claims 2-4, 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is improper and should be withdrawn.

In view of the remarks herein-contained, Applicants submit that independent claims 2 and 6 are in condition for allowance. With regard to dependent claims 3, 4 and 7, Applicants assert that they are allowable on their own merit, as well as because of their respective dependencies from independent claims 2 and 6, which Applicants have shown to be allowable.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims in the present application are clearly patentable over the references cited by the Examiner, either alone or in combination, and an indication to such effect is respectfully requested, in due course.

SUMMARY

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully request an indication to that effect. Applicants have argued the allowability of the claims and pointed out deficiencies of the applied reference. Accordingly, reconsideration of the outstanding Official Action and allowance of the present application and all the claims therein are respectfully requested and is now believed to be appropriate.

Applicants note that this amendment is being made to advance prosecution of the application to allowance, and should not be considered as surrendering equivalents of the territory between the claims prior to the present amendment and the amended claims. Further, no acquiescence as to the propriety of the Examiner's rejection is made by the present amendment. All other amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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